

Washington State Patrol Media Release

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*****For Immediate Release*****

Date: January 12, 2006
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“State Patrol’s Computer Crimes Unit Reports Calendar Year Successes”

The Washington State Patrol’s Computer Crimes Unit (CCU) has been making a difference for Washington’s citizens every day since 1997. The CCU investigates cases that include crimes involving **Narcotics, Homicide, Identity Theft, Terrorism, Child Pornography, and On-Line Exploitation of Children**. The CCU has played a significant role in bringing to justice those who have robbed our neighbors, victimized our children, and threatened our nation’s security.

The mission of CCU is to provide city, county, state, and federal law enforcement agencies computer forensic technical support and training in accordance with established practices and standards of computer forensics processing. CCU personnel recover relevant evidence that may exist on computer hard drives and other storage media devices for use in related criminal and internal investigations.

The CCU continues to experience tremendous case load growth. During calendar year 2005, CCU closed 85 cases, a 16 percent increase in comparison to the previous year. Moreover, in terms of size of media analyzed, the unit examined 5,326 gigabytes of data, which is a 52 percent increase in comparison to 2004. To put this information into perspective, a megabyte is roughly equal to a full length novel of information. A gigabyte is equal to 1,000 megabytes. So to translate the 5,326 gigabytes of data examined into books, this would be the equivalent of over 5 million books of information that have been examined by CCU personnel this year alone.

As computers and technology continue to grow, CCU will continue to see an increased demand by the criminal justice community for computer forensics. Additionally, as media storage capacity increases the time and resources it takes to complete a case will continue to rise. This trend will only continue to grow as suspects use technology more and more in their criminal endeavors.

Captain Mark Couey praised the staff in CCU for their dedication and commitment to improved public safety which led to the 16 percent increase in closed cases in calendar year 2005.

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